Ereleuva Eusebia

(c. 400 - 500)

BRIEFING

Ereleuva Eusebia (440-500) was the mother of Theodoric the Great, king of the Ostrogoths.

HISTORY

Although historians often refer to her as the concubine of Theodomir, the father of Theodoric, there are others who point out that

> *"The title of concubine does not do justice to the position she held in the Ostrogothic kingdom. In many of the Teutonic nations, as later in the Nordic ones, the marriage rite was not so important."*
> — Thomas Hodgkin

Gelasius refers to her as "regina" (queen), which suggests that she held a relevant social position, regardless of the informality of her relationship with Theodomir.

Ereleuva, possibly Arian at birth, was converted to Catholicism and baptized with the name Eusebia. She apparently took her conversion seriously, as indicated by her correspondence with Pope Gelasius and the mention of her in the Panegyric of Theodoric by Ennodius of Pavia.

Her name is spelled by ancient historians in various ways: Ereriliva (by the Anonymous Valesian), Erelieva (by Jordanes) but she is best known as Ereleuva and as Eusebia, her Catholic name.

Among her descendants, limiting the description to the 7th generation, we find that she is the mother, grandmother, great-grandmother, great-great-grandmother and great-great-great-grandmother of kings from different dynasties.